

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE,
AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 6, wherein the ring segments define wave crests and wave valleys, with the wave crests and wave valleys of adjacent ring segments confronting one another.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 6, wherein the connectors, arranged successively in the longitudinal axis are linked to the arcuate sections by connections, with the connections of the first connectors and the connections of the second connectors confronting one another.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) A stent, comprising a tubular support frame defining a longitudinal axis and expandable from an initial state to a support state, said support frame including a plurality of ring segments arranged in succession in a direction of the longitudinal axis and formed by struts, which are substantially curved in the initial state in a same circumferential direction and assume a generally linear configuration in the support state, and U-shaped arcuate sections to join the struts to thereby form a wave-like configuration in a circumferential direction of the support frame, wherein adjacent ring segments are linked by first and second connectors which alternate in a same circumferential plane and repeatedly alternate in the direction of the longitudinal axis, wherein successive pairs of first and second connectors alternately are arranged along a substantially same reference line extending in the direction of

the longitudinal axis, wherein a pair of first and second connectors connect to a same point on the same one of the U-shaped arcuate sections in opposite relationship to one another ~~throughout~~ in the direction of the longitudinal axis, and ~~which are~~ wherein each of the first and second connectors is formed with a U-shaped compensating section, with the compensating sections of the first and second connectors pointing in a same circumferential direction, wherein the first connectors have, in a direction of the longitudinal axis, a length which is greater than a length of the second connectors and wherein the first connectors have arcuate legs disposed on both sides of the compensating sections, wherein each of the arcuate legs is disposed in a same circumferential plane adjacent to a corresponding one of the struts and curved in the same circumferential plane as the adjacent strut.

7. (New) The stent of claim 6, wherein the first and second connectors substantially retain their configuration, when the tubular support frame expands from the initial state to the support state.